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**Urban District Council of
Newbiggin by the Sea**

ANNUAL REPORT

of the



Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1963

To the Chairman and Members of Newbiggin-by-Sea Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour of presenting to you my report for the year 1963.

The total number of births declined by 8 and the number of deaths by 16, as compared with 1962. The standard birth rate, therefore, fell from 16.17 in 1962 to 15.74 in 1963 and was lower than the national average of 18.2 per 1,000 of the population. The standard death rate also fell and, at 12.71 per 1,000 was only very slightly higher than the average for England and Wales.

Following the exceptionally low infantile mortality rate in the previous year, there was a very big rise in the rate in 1963, to 32.05 per 1,000 live births, which is much higher than the national average, but it must be remembered that the total numbers involved are very small. Of the 5 children who died before reaching their first birthday, 4 died in the first week of life. This early neonatal death rate is the part of infant mortality which is proving most resistant to efforts to reduce the loss of infant life. This problem is receiving attention on a national scale and strenuous efforts are being made, to overcome it.

The number of new cases of tuberculosis fell from 5 in 1962 to 2 in 1963 and for the fourth consecutive year there was no death from this disease.


The number of deaths from malignant neoplasms fell by 7, as compared with the previous year and the death rate from this cause was little more than half the national average rate. The death rate from cancer of the lung was particularly low.

It is pleasing to report that 80 Council houses were completed during this year, enabling some progress to be made with the slum clearance programme.

The Council's major project during the year was, of course, the improvement and extension of the sewerage system and with the commencement of preliminary work just before the end of the year there is reason to hope that, before long, the flooding from surcharged sewers and the pollution of the beach will be things of the past.

In conclusion I would thank Councillors for the consideration they have shown me and would thank other departments of the Council for the help they have given me.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,
C.B. McGregor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health,
Urban District of Newbiggin-by-Sea.



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OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health	CATHERINE B. McGREGOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer	KATHLEEN DICK, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Public Health Inspector	HAROLD S. WILSON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Offices of the P.H. Inspector	Front Street, Newbiggin-by-Sea.
Telephone	Newbiggin 350
Offices of the Medical Officer	146, Station Road, Ashington.
Telephone	Ashington 2287
Residence of Medical Officer	36, Churchburn Drive, Morpeth.
Telephone	Morpeth 2519
Residence of Assistant Medical Officer	21, Kendor Grove, Morpeth.
Telephone	Morpeth 2647.

SECTION A.STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The area and boundaries of the Urban District remained unchanged in 1963 but the Registrar-General estimated that the population declined by a further 30 to 10,010.

Coal-mining continues to be the main form of employment. Agriculture and fishing employ a small proportion of the population and holiday makers bring a considerable amount of trade to the town in the summer time.

Area in Acres	1,841
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1963	10,010
Rateable Value	£195,450
One Penny Rate Produces	£775
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1963)	3,175

VITAL STATISTICS.

(figures for England and Wales are in brackets)

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	145	78	67
Illegitimate	11	2	9
	<hr/> 156	<hr/> 80	<hr/> 76

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	15.58
Standard Birth Rate (Crude Birth Rate x Comparability Factor 1.01)	15.74 (18.2)

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	2	1	1

Rate per 1,000 of the total (live and still) births	12.66 (17.3)
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DEATHS.

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
101	53	48

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	10.09
Standard Death Rate (Comparability Factor 1.26 x Crude Death Rate.	12.71 (12.2)
Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) births .	Nil (0.28)

<u>Death Rate of Infants under 1 year.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	3	1
Illegitimate	-	1
	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 2

All infants per 1,000 live births	32.05 (20.9)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	27.59
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .	90.91

<u>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	3	1

Neonatal Death Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live births) ..	25.64 (14.2)
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Deaths of Infants under 1 week.Male Female.

Legitimate

3

- 1

Early Neonatal Death Rate (Deaths under 1 week per
1,000 live births) 25.64

Perinatal Death Rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under 1
week per 1,000 total (live and still)births)..... 37.97

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1963.

	Under 1 day	1 - 6 days	1 week	2 weeks	3 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 - 3 months	4 - 6 months	7 - 9 months	10-12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	3	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4
Congenital Malformation	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
	3	1	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	5

The Registrar-General supplies the following:

CAUSES OF DEATH 1963.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, (other forms)	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic disease	-	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	-	1
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	-
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	-	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	-	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	2	4
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-
16. Diabetes	1	-
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	7	6
18. Coronary Disease, angina	15	10
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	-
20. Other Heart Diseases	8	11
21. Other Circulatory Diseases.	2	3
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	1	1
24. Bronchitis	3	3
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	-
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	1	1
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	5	4
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-
34. All other accidents	-	-
35. Suicide	3	2
36. Homicide and Operations of War	-	-
Total ...	53	48

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN NEWBIGGIN-BY-SEA.

Disease	Total Number	% of Total Deaths
Diseases of Heart and Circulation	50	49.50
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	13	12.87
Malignant Neoplasms	11	10.89
Total	74	73.26

SECTION B.GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Newcastle General Hospital and additional facilities are available at Ashington General Hospital.

The extent to which these facilities have been utilised is shown below:

Specimens sent by	Specimen	Pos	Neg.
Chest Physician	Sputum for B. Tuberculosis	1	Not available
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for food poisoning organisms	2	4
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for pathogenic organisms	-	2

Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance service in Newbiggin is provided by the Northumberland County Council ambulances stationed at Ashington, where there are 15 drivers. A 24-hour service is maintained.

Nursing in the Home.

This service is administered and provided by the Northumberland County Council and nurses are stationed as follows:-

Newbiggin	2
North Seaton	1

Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

These are provided by the Northumberland County Council and clinics are held at the Child Welfare Centre at Jubilee Terrace, Newbiggin and at 18, High Double Row, North Seaton Colliery.

SECTION C.Water Supply.

Water is supplied to the whole area by Tynemouth Corporation's Water Undertaking and, during the year, it was sufficient in quantity and satisfactory in quality. Six samples of water were taken and all were of the highest quality. The average consumption was 29.8 gallons per head per day, an increase of 3 gallons per head per day on the consumption in the previous year.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The main sewer through the Store Yard was blocked twice during the month of May, and sufficient offal to fill three bins was recovered from a manhole. No one would admit responsibility but the butchers were warned and promised to take great care in the future. The new sewer from the Moor housing site was also blocked on one occasion.

The new scheme ^{for} from eliminating pollution of the beach and surcharging of the sewers during high tides received Ministry approval in January and preliminary works began in December. The estimated cost of the scheme was £182,744.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse is collected twice weekly and no complaints were received during the year. Owing to the increase in the number of houses as a result of the Moor Site development, the Council decided to dispense with the Dennis side-loading vehicles and ordered a Dennis 20cu.yd. Tippax vehicle to cope with the extra houses. Towards the end of the year a major rat infestation was found at the Blue Holes tip and was energetically treated, with assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Public Conveniences.

The extension to the public convenience at Prospect Place was completed in the early summer. Every effort is made to maintain the public conveniences in a clean and satisfactory condition but wanton destruction and improper use make this extremely difficult.

Conveniences belonging to public houses were inspected and, in one case, were found to be inadequate. Agreement was reached on a scheme for improvement and additions.

Eradication of Vermin.

Two Council houses were treated for bed bugs and ten private houses and twenty-four Council houses for black beetles.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

A survey of the allotments was completed in March and the following is a summary of the findings:-

Total number of allotments	365
Allotments showing signs of rat infestation	154
Number of buildings excluding greenhouses but including huts, hen-crees, pig-sties and stables	606
Number of buildings correctly constructed	178

Subsequently, the Allotment Association agreed to accept responsibility for controlling the rat population on the allotments.

The following table gives a summary of the annual return made to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food showing the work done under the Act.

	L.A.	Dwelling Houses	Business Premises	Agric- ultural
No. of Properties	9	3161	314	17
No. of inspections as a result of:				
a) Complaint	-	114	63	-
b) Survey under the Act	9	230	174	12
c) Otherwise	-	483	77	5
No. of Infestations	2	132	94	2
No. of properties dealt with by Local Authority	2	132	94	2

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

There are in the district 12 factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Act are enforced by the local authority, 11 in which section 7 is enforced by the local authority and 4 others in which section 7 is enforced by the local authority. No defects were found and no defects were referred to, or by, H.M. Inspector.

Caravan Sites.

The caravan site on Newbiggin Moor gave considerable cause for concern as the number of caravans stationed there greatly exceeded the number for which the existing sanitary and ablution facilities could adequately cater. In June the site was threatened with closure but the manager promised to provide additional chemical closets and, in order to prevent disappointment to many families already booked for holidays there, the Council agreed, though reluctantly, to allow the site to continue.

Subsequently the Council resolved that the Model Standards for Caravan Sites must be observed and various meetings between representatives of Newbiggin Council, and of the Planning Authority were held. The site manager was also present on one occasion and he was informed of the requirements and that the total number of caravans must not exceed 45 until additional sanitary facilities were provided.

The caravan site at North Seaton links continued to grow and, in spite of the good progress made with the provision of amenities when the camp first began, it seems that this site, too, may cease to be satisfactory. Careful supervision will be required to ensure that there is compliance with the acceptable standards.

Civic Exhibition.

A Civic Exhibition, authorised by the Council was held from 8th to 15th March, 1963. Exhibitors taking part included the Accident Prevention Council, the Police, the Ministry of Labour, the Tynemouth Corporation Water Department, the Solid Smokeless Fuel Federation, the Electricity Board, Civil Defence and the National Coal Board.

School children visited the exhibition in organised parties and adult organisations were also invited to attend.

Films were shown covering the subjects of Clean Air, Safety and Hygiene.

SECTION D.TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1963.New Houses completed during the year:

a) By Local Authority	80
b) By other bodies or persons	8

Closing and Demolition.

1) Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	Nil
2) Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	Nil
3) Houses closed, not demolished	Nil
4) Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above	Nil

Repairs: Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or P.H. Acts.

1) By informal action	32
2) By owners, following statutory action	Nil
3) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
4) Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	Nil

Houses Patched.

1) Houses in Clearance Areas still in use at end of year for temporary accommodation	Nil
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A. Discretionary Grants.

1) Applications submitted to Local Authority	10
2) Applications rejected	Nil
3) Applications approved	10
4) Approximate average grant approved per house	£204-4-0d.
5) Total number of houses approved for grant in the area since inception of scheme	297

B. Standard Grants.

	<u>During the Year</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>
1) Number of separate houses for which grants have been made	12	44
2) Number of houses so provided with:		
a) Bath or shower	10	37
b) Wash hand basin	11	38
c) Hot water supply	7	31
d) Water closet	12	43
e) Food store	1	19

Local Authority Houses.

1) Total number of houses owned by Local Authority	1245
2) Total number of inhabited houses in District	3175

In September 1963, the Council considered an Official Representation on the condition of nos. 3-21 Downie's Buildings and declared these 19 houses to be a Clearance Area. By the end of the year, all these houses had been vacated.

No. 1 Watt's Lane was made the subject of a Closing Order.

No. 3a Victoria Terrace was represented as an individual unfit house and a Demolition Order was proposed but, following representations by the owner, the Council accepted a written undertaking that the house would not be re-let for human habitation and gave permission, subject to certain conditions, to its being converted into a garage and store.

At the end of the year there remained approximately 35 houses in the slum clearance programme.

SECTION E.INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.Meat Inspection.

The slaughter-house owned by the Co-operative Society continued to operate during the year and the premises were available for use by other butchers in the town.

The buildings were inspected on two occasions by the Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food who found only minor defects and was satisfied with the arrangements, as a whole.

The Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963 came into force on 1st October, 1963 making 100% meat inspection compulsory and setting out in detail, the routine to be followed in the examination of a carcass. For two years from the commencement of the regulations it will be permissible to remove a carcass if it has not been inspected within six hours of slaughter but after 30th September, 1965 it will be illegal to remove an uninspected carcass from a slaughter-house.

Carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Bovine excl. Calves	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	547	112	1327	149
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcasses, some part or organ of which was condemned	22	-	2	-
Percentage of No. affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci	4.02	-	0.15	-
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcasses, some part or organ of which was condemned	-	-	-	-
Percentage of No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis only.</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcasses, some part or organ of which was condemned	1	-	-	-
Percentage of No. inspected affected with Cysticercosis	0.18	-	-	-

Other Foods.

During the year the following food stuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption:-

Meat	192 tins	Fish	42 tins
Fruit	113 "	Vegetables	105 "
Soup	23 "	Milk	10 "
Bacon	26 lbs.	Sausage	12 lbs.

Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises.

Approximately fifty visits were paid to food shops and conditions were generally satisfactory but in the case of one cafe an informal notice was served requiring thorough cleansing of the premises and the execution of various repairs.

The number of food premises by type is as follows:-

Grocers and General Dealers	31
Confectioners	10
Cafes and Snack Bars	8
Butchers	9
Bakers	4
Greengrocers	4
Fried Fish Shops	4
Wines and Spirits	2

SECTION F.PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is provided by the Regional Hospital Board, at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF
INFECTIOUS DISEASE UNDER AGE GROUPS.

Disease	Under 1 year	1 - 2 years	3 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 34 years	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over	Total
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Measles	3	24	37	46	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	111
Whooping Cough	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Total	4	25	41	46	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	118

Measles.

An epidemic of Measles was expected in 1963 and did in fact, begin in January but it did not follow the pattern of previous outbreaks. During January 56 cases occurred and, in February, 25 cases and then the outbreak appeared to subside as no cases occurred in March, only one in April and none in May. In June, however, there was a slight recurrence, with 12 cases, followed by 7 in July, 9 in August and, finally, one in November.

This gave a total of 111 cases in the year, a much smaller total than was expected, since the 1961 epidemic produced 212 cases, the 1959 epidemic 229 cases and the 1957 epidemic 488 cases.

Diphtheria.

There has been no case of Diphtheria since 1950 and no death from the disease during the past 16 years.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of children protected in this way continues to be satisfactory. During the year, 156 pre-school and 27 school children completed the primary course of treatment while 178 pre-school and 187 school children received re-inforcing injections.

Of those who completed the primary course, 153 were given triple antigen which protects against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus, simultaneously.

Diphtheria Immunisation cont'd.

School children and those approaching school age, who have been immunised against Tetanus in infancy are now given reinforcing injections of a combined antigen which boosts their immunity against both Diphtheria and Tetanus. School children who have not been previously immunised or have not previously been protected against Tetanus are given the opportunity of being immunised against this disease also.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

Since September 1963, mothers have been able to have their infants immunised against poliomyelitis when attending for immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus; the oral vaccine being given at the same session. This arrangement has been very successful and much appreciated as it reduces by half the number of attendances at immunisation clinics in the first year of a child's life.

During 1963, oral vaccine replaced the Salk vaccine almost entirely. The primary course of protection against poliomyelitis was given to 1,150 persons and 1,745 received re-inforcing doses.

These figures refer to the whole of the Central Area of the County.

TUBERCULOSIS.NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1963.

Age Groups	New Cases					Deaths				
	Resp		Non-Resp		Total	Resp		Non-Resp		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 - 74 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
75 years & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-

Only two cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year, one being respiratory and the other non-respiratory.

Once again no death occurred from any form of the disease.

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in Newbiggin	Nil
Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in England and Wales	0.056 per 1,000
Death Rate from Non-respiratory Tuberculosis in Newbiggin	Nil
Death Rate from Non-respiratory Tuberculosis in England and Wales	0.007 per 1,000

MORTALITY FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS DURING 1963.

The following table shows the deaths in age-groups resulting from Malignant Neoplasms of different sites.

Site	Male					Total	Female					Total
	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over		35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over	
Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Bronchus	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stomach	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Pancreas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Colon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Ovary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Cervix	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Penis	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	1	3	-	-	4	1	1	3	1	1	7

There were eleven deaths due to malignant neoplasms, - a reduction of seven on the number of deaths in the previous year.

Malignant Neoplasms of the Lung and Bronchus.

Death Rate in Newbiggin	0.2 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales	0.519 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All other Sites.

Death Rate in Newbiggin	0.899 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales	1.658 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites.

Death Rate in Newbiggin	1.099 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales	2.177 per 1,000

The death rate from this cause is, therefore, little more than half the corresponding rate for the country as a whole.

